There was no objection.

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, dwindling water supplies are creating concern across this country. Thirty-six States are currently or expect to experience significant water shortages within the next 5 years. That's why I introduced H.R. 3957, the Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Act. This bill would establish a research and development program within the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Research and Development to promote water efficiency and conservation.

Madam Speaker, tough decisions lie ahead for water managers who must balance the needs of agriculture, consumption by cities, industrial and energy production, transportation, tourism, wastewater treatment, energy response, and ecosystems. We are not going to solve this problem overnight, but H.R. 3957 will provide us with several important tools to address the coming issues we face with technology and innovative thinking. By encouraging research and development into water-use efficiency, we can create a path to increase our Nation's water supply.

H.R. 3957 would expand EPA's scope and involvement solving the Nation's water crisis through the development of technologies and processes to expand water supplies through storage, treatment, and reuse of rainwater, storm water and grey water.

The program will also conduct research on water storage and distribution systems, research on behavioral, social, and economic barriers to achieving greater water efficiency, and research on the use of watershed planning.

As part of the program, EPA will develop a strategic plan to outline the best path forward to avoid duplication and work towards the most relevant problems facing our water supply.

My bill directs the EPA to facilitate the adoption of technology and processes to increase water efficiency and conservation. The new program will collect information on new technologies that achieve more efficient use of water and provide this information through a public clearinghouse.

I want to thank Chairman GORDON for his interest in this legislation and for his leadership in ensuring adequate water supply for the 21st century in this country. I also want to thank all of the members of the House Science and Technology Committee for their bipartisan support and for their collaboration—their thoughtful collaboration I would say—on this bill. In the full committee, amendments were adopted that were authored by Congresswoman EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON, Congressman PHIL GINGREY, and Congresswoman GABRIELLE GIFFORDS. Their amendments made this a better bill, and I certainly appreciate their input.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The Environmental Protection Agency, better known as the EPA, is the Nation's lead agency charged with protecting the environment and supporting the goals of the Clean Water Act and Safe Drinking Water Act by providing methods, approaches and tools needed to protect water sources. As such, relevant and high-quality research and development is very vital to EPA's ability to carry out its many missions.

However, EPA's research and development program is far from comprehensive or rationally organized. As of today, EPA only conducts coordinated research and development activities in three areas; water quality protection, watershed management, and source control management. And while these are essential research areas, I believe EPA is missing a critical component to their research agenda, and that is the research and development of technologies that increase efficiency and conservation.

According to the American Water Works Association, an international nonprofit scientific and educational organization, daily indoor per capita water consumption in a typical single family home is about 70 gallons. By installing more efficient water fixtures and checking for leaks, single family homes may reduce their daily per capita water consumption by about 35 percent.

While some of these technologies are on the market and utilized, many water-saving ideas linger in the research phase for lack of a coordinated Federal research program.

H.R. 3957 establishes a research and development program for water efficiency technologies and conservation at the EPA. It instructs the Assistant Administrator of the Office of Research and Development to develop a strategic research plan, coordinated with other relevant EPA strategic plans, to compel synchronization of different research agendas.

EPA is to use recommendations in existing reports from the National Academies and the National Science and Technology Council in the development of the plan. However, their effort should not be just a regurgitation of previous work.

Other countries, such as Israel, have invested significant resources in water efficiency and conservation research areas. We, too, have to invest resources if we are to weather water shortages in the future.

Madam Speaker, at a time when our Nation is really facing greater numbers of water events, we just can't afford to fall behind on technology research and development.

I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3957.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I just would encourage everyone to support this. The Science Committee reported this bill in a unanimous bipartisan vote. That's the tradition of the Science Committee to work in a bipartisan way.

I encourage all my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3957—the Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act. I commend my colleague from the Science Committee—Mr. MATHESON of Utah—for crafting this thoughtful legislation that was reported to the House on a broad bipartisan basis.

Over the past year, my home State of Georgia—and specifically my district—has experienced significant and historic drought conditions that have brought to the forefront what the future may hold for our local water supply.

In addition to the drought conditions in my district, a number of other States are facing similar challenges. Over the next 5 years, more than half of the States in our country anticipate some sort of water shortage that will wreak havoc on our environment, as well as our economy.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 3957 addresses ways in which the Environmental Protection Agency can use its Office of Research and Development to promote technologies that increase water efficiency and conservation via collection, treatment and reuse of rainwater and greywater, and research on water storage.

I am encouraged that this legislation will promote the adoption of emerging technologies to help us make better use of one of our most precious resources—water. I am also very pleased that the Science Committee adopted an amendment that I offered directing the EPA to ensure that the research and development efforts resulting from this legislation complement all other EPA research and development endeavors. Proper implementation of a strategic research plan will ultimately make this program successful.

Madam Speaker, at a time when water shortages are becoming more commonplace in our Nation, I applaud the bipartisan work of the Science Committee under the leadership of Chairman GORDON and Ranking Member HALL on this important legislation. I urge all of my colleagues to support H.R. 3957.

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3957, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PRODUCED WATER UTILIZATION ACT OF 2008

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2339) to encourage research, development, and demonstration of

technologies to facilitate the utilization of water produced in connection with the development of domestic energy resources, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2339

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Produced Water Utilization Act of 2008''.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) PRODUCED WATER.—The term ''produced water'' means water from an underground source that is brought to the surface as part of the process of exploration for or development of coalbed methane, oil, natural gas, or any other substance to be used as an energy source.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term ''Secretary'' means the Secretary of Energy.

SEC. 3 PURPOSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall carry out under this Act a program of research, development, and demonstration of technologies for environmentally sustainable utilization of produced water for agricultural, irrigational, municipal, and industrial uses, or other environmentally sustainable purposes. The program shall be designed to maximize the utilization of produced water in the United States by increasing the quality of produced water and reducing the environmental impacts of produced water.

(b) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—The program under this Act shall address the following areas, including improving safety and minimizing environmental impacts of activities within each area:

(1) Produced water recovery, including research for desalination and demineralization to reduce total dissolved solids in the produced water.

(2) Produced water utilization for agricultural, irrigational, municipal, and industrial uses, or other environmentally sustainable purposes.

(3) Re-injection of produced water into subsurface geological formations to increase energy production.

(c) PROGRAM ADMINISTRATION.—To carry out the purposes under this Act, the Secretary may enter into an agreement with a consortium whose members have collectively demonstrated capabilities and experience in planning and managing research, development, demonstration, and commercial application programs for unconventional natural gas and other petroleum production and produced water utilization.

(d) ACTIVITIES AT THE NATIONAL LABORATORIES.—The Secretary, through the appropriate National Laboratory, shall carry out a program of research, development, and demonstration activities complementary to and supportive of the research, development, and demonstration programs under subsection (b).

SEC. 4. CONSULTATION AND COORDINATION.

(a) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this Act, the Secretary shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(b) COORDINATION.—To the maximum extent practicable, the Secretary shall ensure that the activities under this Act are coordinated with, and do not duplicate the efforts of, programs at the Department of Energy and other government agencies.

SEC. 5. FUNDING.

(a) ALLOCATION.—Amounts appropriated for this Act for each fiscal year shall be allocated as follows:

(1) 75 percent shall be for activities under section 3(a), (b), and (c).

(2) 25 percent shall be for activities under section 3(d) and other activities under section 3, including administrative functions such as program direction, overall program oversight, and contract management.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act $20,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2009 through 2013.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 2339, the bill now under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

Mr. MATHESON. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased that the House will consider the bill, H.R. 2339, the Produced Water Utilization Act.

I particularly want to acknowledge and thank the ranking member, Mr. HALL from Texas, for introducing this bill. And I look forward to working with him on other water-related issues in the future.

□ 2045

Domestic production of oil, natural gas, and coal bed methane are essential to our Nation's economy. The term ''produced water'' refers to the water brought to the surface during the extraction of these fossil fuels. For every barrel of oil generated in the U.S., 10 barrels of produced water are created.

Since produced water comprises 98 percent of all waste generated by petroleum production activity, handling and disposal of this water can be a major impediment to efficiently increasing domestic oil production.

This bill before us, H.R. 2339, the Produced Water Utilization Act, creates a research, development, and demonstration program for beneficial water produced in connection with oil and gas extraction. The program will focus on improving safety and minimizing environmental impacts during produced water recovery.

The utilization of treated produced water will increase water supply, reduce injections into underground formations, and increase domestic energy production through cost reductions. At a time when water supplies are dwindling and oil prices are high, a research program to turn waste water into a clean reusable resource is just good common sense. I urge all Members to support H.R. 2339.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank Mr. MATHESON and his fine staff, the staffs on both sides of the aisle, for doing a very good job on this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today, of course, in support of H.R. 2339, the Produced Water Utilization Act of 2008. I introduced H.R. 2339 in May of last year, and it was recently reported out of the Committee of Science and Technology by a voice vote. It comes to the floor today with unanimous, bipartisan support.

For those who are not familiar with the term, the Department of the Interior defines produced water as mainly salty water trapped in reservoir rock and brought up along with oil or gas during production. Produced water cannot, in its current form, be used for any purposes, and it is most commonly reinjected into the ground at great expense to small producers across the country. Each barrel of oil produced generates approximately 10 barrels of produced water, and we currently produce over 5 billion gallons of produced water a day in the United States. That is enough water to accommodate 14.3 million homes a day.

As we are facing shortages in energy and water, my bill could not be more timely, in my opinion. H.R. 2339 is legislation that has two main purposes: one, increasing domestic energy production by lowering production costs for small producers; two, increasing the amount of water available for agricultural, irrigational, municipal, and industrial uses by making produced water usable. The Produced Water Utilization Act will provide important funding for research, development, demonstration, and commercial application of technologies to purify and use produced water.

There is a critical interdependency between energy and water. Water is needed to produce energy, and the treatment and distribution of water requires energy, and as our population grows, so will the demands grow on both. According to a report by the Department of Energy on the Interdependency of Energy and Water, ''The lack of integrated energy and water planning and management has already impacted energy production in many basins and regions across the country. For example, in three of the fastest growing regions in the country, the Southeast, Southwest, and the Northwest, new power plants have been opposed because of potential negative impacts on water supplies. Also, recent droughts and emerging limitations of water resources have many States, including Texas, South Dakota, Wisconsin, and Tennessee, scrambling to develop water use priorities for different water use sectors.'' We obviously need to take a serious look at how we can avoid a water/energy crisis, and my bill certainly helps.

Madam Speaker, produced water is currently considered an expensive nuisance by oil and gas producers, but it could be—no, it needs to be—considered

a valuable, usable commodity. With the research and development set forth in the Produced Water Utilization Act, we can make it happen. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. GINGREY, Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2339—the Produced Water Utilization Act of 2008—introduced by the Ranking Member of the Science Committee, Mr. HALL of Texas. I want to thank Mr. HALL for constructing this important legislation and for the leadership he has provided to the Committee throughout the 110th Congress.

Produced water is comprised of mainly salty water that is trapped in reservoir rock below ground. It comes to the surface when drilling for oil or natural gas and usually contains oil and metals from production. Approximately 10 barrels of produced water are captured for every barrel of oil derived, and that results in a total of 15–20 billion barrels of produced water generated here in the United States on an annual basis.

H.R. 2339 directs the Secretary of Energy to establish a program for research and development to harvest produced water in an environmentally safe way for irrigation, municipal, and industrial purposes. Once this program is established, we can help address the droughts that are occurring across the country—including in my Northwest Georgia district—simply by providing the public with additional water resources.

Madam Speaker, the United States could be generating even more produced water if the Democratic Majority would allow for the environmentally safe drilling of oil in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge. Polls show that a majority of Americans would support energy exploration in a small portion of ANWR, which could yield an additional 1.5 million barrels of oil a day. These efforts have unfortunately been foiled by radical environmentalists, content with skyrocketing gas prices.

So, Madam Speaker, to be clear: if we open up ANWR for drilling *and* enact this legislation, not only will we help reduce the price that the American people are paying at the pump, but we will also be better prepared to stave off anticipated drought conditions across the country.

H.R. 2339 only reinforces the need for us to drill here and drill now: to save money at the pump and increase the amount of water we have available in the United States. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important legislation.

Mr. HALL of Texas. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MATHESON. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2339, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO LEBANON—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110–140)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication stating that the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions and certain other persons are to continue in effect beyond August 1, 2008.

The actions of certain persons to undermine Lebanon's legitimate and democratically elected government or democratic institutions, to contribute to the deliberate breakdown in the rule of law in Lebanon, including through politically motivated violence and intimidation, to reassert Syrian control or contribute to Syrian interference in Lebanon, or to infringe upon or undermine Lebanese sovereignty contribute to political and economic instability in that country and the region and constitute a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency and related measures blocking the property of persons undermining the sovereignty of Lebanon or its democratic processes and institutions and certain other persons.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, *July 30, 2008*.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SKELTON addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

DISASTER RELIEF FOR IOWA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LOEBSACK) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to speak about the natural disaster that has hit Iowa, first tornados and then floods, in the most recent weeks. This is a natural disaster obviously that also hit other parts of the Midwest. Some 10 States in the Midwest have been struck by massive flooding since June.

First of all, I want to commend my colleagues from Iowa in the House and in the Senate. We have worked together, I think, in stellar bipartisan fashion since the floods struck Iowa, and I commend my colleagues. I am very proud of the fact that we have come together to do what we can for our great State. I have every confidence that we are going to continue to work together in the coming months and indeed in the years ahead.

The people of Iowa are self-sufficient and self-reliant. We are strong. We are the salt of the earth. We do not believe in asking for much. We would rather earn things on our own. When faced with a disaster, Iowans stand together to move forward and rebuild.

Our commitment to community and resilience may lead some to believe that the tornadoes, severe storms, and flooding which hit the State of Iowa was only a minor event. However, having spent the majority of my time back home, I can assure you that this is anything but a minor event.

Indeed, in my district alone, the Second District of Iowa, we have several rivers, and in virtually every case they flowed out of their banks in early to mid June. Whether it's Cedar Rapids that saw the Cedar River rise 50 percent above its previous record and overflow its banks and displace 20,000 to 25,000 individuals; or the Iowa River in Iowa City, where it again spilled over the Coralville Reservoir and exceeded its previous record level by 3 feet and caused some $232 million damage to the University of Iowa; or whether it was the Iowa River coming together with the Cedar River in Columbus Junction and engulfing much of that city, and particularly its commercial areas; or whether it was the Iowa River that split off just before it hit Oakville, the tiny town of Oakville, and formed two channels but included the town of Oakville really in one large channel, a town of just over 400 people; or the Mississippi from Muscatine on down to Keokuk; or the Des Moines River from Ottumwa on to Keokuk. All of these rivers flowed out of their